



Harbinger

SPRINGFIELD CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

VOL. 17 NO. 5

While the Springfield Conservation Nature Center is just celebrating its 15th anniversary, the vision for nature centers began years ago by folks with a pioneering spirit. The history of nature centers in Missouri has been shaped by visionaries, from the early conservationists who campaigned for a conservation sales tax to fund nontraditional conservation programs to the voters who made that 1/8 of one cent sales tax possible in 1976 with the Design for Conservation.

Not unlike Thomas Jefferson's campaign to procure money from Congress for Lewis & Clark's famed Corps of Discovery, a number of early conservation visionaries had to "sell" the idea of a sales tax with an initiative petition.

These additional funds would be revolutionary in expanding conservation money to protect endangered species and habitats, fund more educational programs including nature centers, and to provide more opportunities for an assortment of outdoor recreational pursuits. While Congress only allotted Jefferson a mere \$2,500 for the Corps of Discovery with the final bill of the trip totaling more than \$39,000, Missourians were far less short-sighted when they voted in the Design for Conservation sales tax making the vision of Conservation Department-operated nature centers

and other nontraditional programs a reality.

Then Commissioner and Springfield Businessman John Mahaffey was influential in getting Springfield on the map to be the site for the second Conservation Nature Center in 1988. Former Nature Center Manager Dave Catlin helped to define the role of nature centers with his conservation vision. The families of C.W. Chrisman and Jean and Dr. Henry F. Knabb, Jr. contributed to this vision by selling and donating to the Conservation Department part of the proceeds of 53 acres of land the nature center now calls home. City Utilities was a player, too, in that they agreed to lease an additional 27 acres of land to the Conservation Department for a nominal charge.

You, the visitor, have also been a part of this vision by the sales tax revenue you provide and by your attendance at nature center programs which gives us an opportunity to further share our conservation vision with you. While the Corps of Discovery's scientific contributions to society far surpass our accomplishments, more than 1.5 million people have visited the facility and nearly 3 million have walked the trails since the nature center opened. We'd like to thank you for sharing our vision and we welcome your comments as we look toward the future together.

15th Anniversary

15th Anniversary Events

The Springfield Conservation Nature Center is 15 years old! Help us celebrate this anniversary with the following program lineup:

Mr. Ug Puppet Show

Friday, October 10, 4pm or 7pm

What might it have been like to live long before fire was discovered and tools were invented? Master Puppeteer Leon Van Weelden returns to tell the story of caveman Mr. Ug's struggle to survive by using the natural resources that surround him. More than 20 hand-and-rod puppets, special effects, and panoramic scenery make this puppet show a treat for all ages. Registration required.

Lewis & Clark Adventure

Saturday, October 11, 10am-5pm

Sunday, October 12, 1-5pm

Members from the Conservation Department's statewide Lewis & Clark dugout canoe crew join local staff and volunteers to bring to life Lewis & Clark's famed Corps of Discovery. See a one-quarter scale replica of the keelboat used to begin the journey nearly 200 years ago; sit in a 3,000 pound, 30-foot dugout canoe like the ones used to navigate the shallow rivers; and learn about how the natural resources have changed since Lewis & Clark's famed journey. While Lewis & Clark never poled a keelboat through the Springfield area, their scientific discoveries highlighted in journals paint a fascinating picture of what our local natural world was like in 1804. Drop by anytime. All ages.

Primitive Skills Day

Sunday, October 12, 1-5pm

Primitive Skills Day returns as part of the 15th anniversary celebration. Drop by anytime to see demonstrations in a variety of skills from some of the area's best primitive skills specialists. (See October events section for details.)

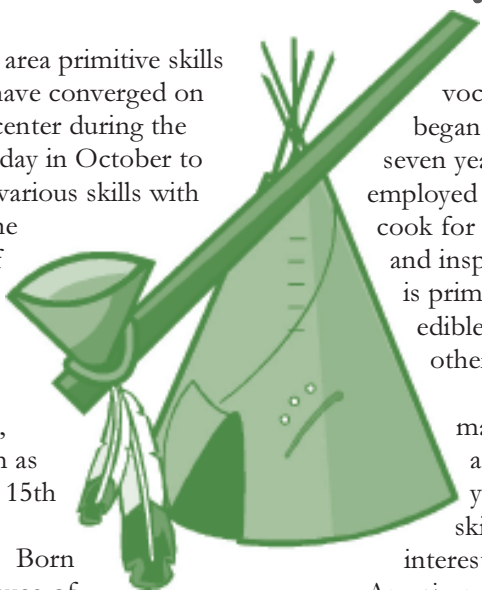
Chipping In . . .

Primitive Skills Specialists

Since 1991, area primitive skills specialists have converged on the nature center during the second Sunday in October to share their various skills with visitors. The tradition of Primitive Skills Day returns on Sunday, October 12, from 1-5pm as part of our 15th anniversary celebration. Born in part because of Volunteer Specialist **Don Brink's** affinity for traditional skills and his desire to share knowledge with others, Primitive Skills Day reminds us of our link with Missouri's natural resources.

Early programs included the master flint knapping skills of **D.C. Waldorf**, author of *The Art of Flint Knapping* and several other books. He was accompanied by illustrator and wife **Valerie Waldorf**. **Don Brink** and lifelong friend and past business partner of the Red Willow Primitive Skills Camp, **Bo Brown**, were joined by **Seth Entwisle** to round out the team.

Don Brink has been involved in primitive skills for 25 years and was in the nature center's original volunteer class 15 years ago. He currently works as an outdoor specialist at the Burrell Center's adolescent substance abuse program taking teens on backpacking trips and other outings. **Bo Brown** works as a contract Naturalist with the Conservation Department providing interpretive programming at the Henning Conservation Area in Branson when he's not busy running his own First Earth Wilderness School. Both are equally crafted in a wide variety of primitive skills from flint knapping to fire making and from twisting plant fibers into cords to tanning hides.



Seth Entwisle, whose vocation is in organic lawn care, began his love of primitive skills seven years ago when he was employed by Brink and Brown as a cook for their primitive skills camp and inspired by their teachings. He is primarily interested in wild edibles although skilled in many other primitive crafts.

The **Corning family** have made teaching primitive skills a family affair for the past 15 years. **T.C.'s** flint knapping skills and wife **Wanda's** interest in designing Native American clothing and beadwork adornment have inspired 13-year old daughter **Meagan** to also learn and demonstrate skills. Teaching Native American lifestyles, often from a teepee and surrounded by an assortment of handmade accoutrements, the family frequently volunteers their time to share their knowledge with a generation of kids who know little about Missouri's past history.

Husband and wife team, **Ted** and **Jan Laney**, have shared their love of various skills for the past 10 years. Now retired, Ted has more time to devote to making wood bows from Osage-orange trees. He looks forward to someday using one of his bows to harvest a deer. Jan, on the other hand, uses her knitting skills to design and make primitive hats like Scottish tams, freedom hats, and French tubes. Inspired by factory-made hats she first noticed at various black powder rendezvous five years ago, she began designing her own patterns and making hats during free time.

Master Storyteller and performer **John Hernandez** uses his Native American heritage to provide a backdrop for countless cultural, environmental, and primitive skills programs. He has participated in past Primitive Skills Days by providing stories and Native American drum-

ming. He works with 18 different not-for-profit groups and serves on the Governor's Council for Fitness and Health while employed at Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World.

Bob Liebert, a practicing herbalist for over 20 years, founder and proprietor of Teeter Creek Herbs, and author of *Common Medicinal Herbs of the Ozarks*, occasionally participates in the Primitive Skills Day by leading medicinal plant hikes. **Bob Barker**, **Dave Fiddick**, and **Keven Statwick** have made past appearances to share their talents as well.

Participate in Primitive Skills Day on Sunday, October 12, learn a new skill, and join us in thanking all of these skilled craftspeople for chipping in.

Thank you . . .

The nature center would like to thank Lucas Alexander, Shane Barham, Eric and Gail Belshoff, Scott Briscoe, Jerry Dyke, Tracy Major, Rebecca Westhues, Rich Womack, and Alex and Maria Zobel for donating natural objects. We also extend our thanks to Steven Diullo of Gold Minds for donating a gift certificate for a teachers' workshop and Dana Tideman for the donation made in memory of Fred Lane.

Volunteer Milestones

Debbie Good	500 Hours
Dan Liles	200 Hours
Larry Stuart	200 Hours
Goose Gosnell	100 Hours
Carmen Hallock	100 Hours
Michelle Hoffman	100 Hours
Tracy Richter	100 Hours
Joyce Tolliver	100 Hours



September

Events at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center

For programs requiring registration, call 888-4237.

Registration for all programs begins the first day of the month.

HIKED IT ... LIKED IT!

Enjoy a naturalist-guided hike for families on the first Saturday of each month from 9 to 11am.

Movies are shown each Sunday from 2 to 3pm.



5 Fiddles And Forests Friday, 7-9pm

Join Conservation Department Education Consultant Mike Fraser and members of the Shortleaf Band as they illuminate the cultural history of the brave and hardy Scots/Irish who settled in the Ozarks. Their message of conserving the natural resources the settlers depended upon is in the stories and music in their newly released two-disk CD, *Fiddles and Forests*. Hear and enjoy. A CD signing and sale will follow the program. Ages 12-adult. Registration required.

6 Babes In The Woods Celebrates Grandparents Saturday, 10-10:45am

Grandparents, celebrate your special relationship with your grandchildren, ages 0-2, on a guided nature stroll. Bring a stroller and enjoy some special time outdoors! Registration required.

10 Story Time With Ms. Ladybug Wednesday, 11-11:30am

Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story. Ages 2-6.

12 Trees Of Missouri Friday

3-5pm **Meet The Author:** Meet Don Kurz, author of the recently published *Trees of Missouri*.

7-8pm **Program:** Don Kurz, retired Conservation Department Natural History Chief and author of the recently published *Trees of Missouri*, will show slides of trees and discuss his latest book. Learn some of the interesting features of trees including their characteristics, name origins, historical medicinal uses, and their benefits to wildlife. Kurz will sign his new book as well as his other books following the program. Ages 12-adult. Registration required.

13 Hiking Club Saturday, 8am-5pm

Explore Piney Creek Wilderness with Volunteer Naturalist Doug Gilliam. Pack a sack lunch and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Hike is moderate to difficult and approximately 4.5 miles. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

Archery For Beginners Saturday, 8:30am-Noon

Learn the basics of archery and spend time practicing your new skills at the shooting range at Bois D'Arc Conservation Area. Meet at the range and bring your own gear, if you have it. Ages 11-adult. Registration required.

Monarchs Rule! Saturday, 1-2:30pm

Every fall millions of monarch butterflies wing over the Ozarks to their winter home in Mexico in one of the world's most spectacular migrations. Join Volunteer Naturalists Bob and Ruby Ball to explore the fascinating behavior and life cycle of these beautiful travelers. Families. Registration required.

Bowhunting Basics Saturday, 1-4pm

October 1 is the start of archery season. Gain hands-on experience in tracking, scouting, stand selection, and estimating target distance. We'll also cover equipment, clothing, use of scents, deer stands, and shooting. Meet at the shooting range at Bois D'Arc Conservation Area. Ages 11-adult. Registration required.

14 Summer Hummers Sunday, 5-6:30pm

Here's a last chance send-off for the ruby-throated hummingbirds as they head for Mexico. Hummingbird bander Sarah Driver will share her knowledge about these tiny birds and attempt to capture and band some. Families. Registration required.

18 Primitive Skills Series Backpacking For Beginners Thursday, 7-9pm

Join two avid outdoorsmen, Volunteer Specialist Don Brink and special guest Lance Carlson, for an introduction to backpacking. Learn about the types of equipment, things beginners should know, and places to go in the Ozarks. After attending this program, you'll be ready to venture out on your own. Ages 10-adult. Registration required.

20 Conservation TEEN Club Gone Fishin'

Saturday, 9am-1pm

Join us for a morning of catch-and-release fun. After a brief indoor fishing lesson, we'll travel to a local pond to wet our lines. No experience is necessary. Transportation, gear, and snacks will be provided. Ages 12-17. Registration required.

Beginning Photography Saturday, 10am-2pm

This introductory course will cover basic 35mm photography using nature as the primary subject. The workshop will include a morning lecture by Volunteer Naturalist Art Daniels, lunch (bring your own), and an afternoon photography session in the field. Ages 15-adult. Registration required.

23 For Adults Only Mysteries Underground Tuesday, 9am-2pm

Join a naturalist to go underground and learn about the delicate ecosystem found within. Meet at the cave site; directions will be provided. Bring gloves and three light sources. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

Babes In The Woods Tuesday, 10-10:45am

Fall in line as we go on a guided nature stroll to introduce you and your favorite 0-2 year old to the wonders of the first days of fall. Bring a stroller and join the fun. Registration required.

Lewis & Clark Botanical Drawings Tuesday, 7-8pm (Continued Thursday, 7-8pm)

Part of Lewis and Clark's mission during the famed Corps of Discovery expedition was to bring back scientific specimens and drawings of new plants and animals. Art instructor Sandi Baker shares techniques on how to record accurate details in your own botanical drawing. Ages 12-adult. Registration required.

30 Conservation Kids' Club Monarch Mysteries Tuesday, 6:30-7:45pm

Become a scientist and unravel some of the mysteries of monarch butterfly migration. Learn about their perilous journey and discover more interesting trivia through games and activities. Ages 7-12 only. Registration required.



October

Events at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center

For programs requiring registration, call 888-4237.

Registration for all programs begins the first day of the month.

4 A Morning With Smokey Saturday, 10-11am

Our favorite bear is back and eager to recruit new friends to help him spread his message. Bring a camera if you'd like and pose for a picture with Smokey. Families.

Babes In The Woods Saturday, 11-11:45am

Join us for a guided nature stroll. Bring your 0-2 year old and a stroller to enjoy the beauty of a crisp, colorful autumn day. Registration required.

5 Conservation TEEN Club Map And Compass Sunday, Noon-6pm

Never get lost again! During this class you'll learn the basics of using a compass and topographic maps to find your way. After honing our skills together in the classroom, we'll travel to a local forest where you can put your new found knowledge to the test. Transportation and lunch provided. Ages 12-17. Registration required.

Fall Color Hike Sunday, 1-3pm

Enjoy a stroll through the colorful autumn forest. Along the way, we'll discuss how and why leaves change color and observe some fall blooming plants. Ages 7-adult. Registration required.

8 Story Time With Ms. Ladybug Wednesday, 11-11:30am

Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story. Ages 2-6.

11 15th Anniversary Celebration Saturday, 10am-5pm

Stop by anytime to enjoy Lewis and Clark-inspired anniversary activities. See front cover for more details.

12 15th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, 1-5pm

Stop by anytime to enjoy Lewis and Clark-inspired anniversary activities. See front cover for more details.

12 Primitive Skills Day Sunday, 1-5pm

Back by popular demand, Primitive Skills day returns! See demonstrations in flint knapping, bow and arrow construction, basketry, hide-tanning, making cordage out of plant fibers, beadwork, and fire making from some of the Ozarks' best primitive skills specialists. Volunteer Specialist Don Brink is joined by Bo Brown of First Earth Wilderness School; T.C., Wanda, and Meagan Corning; Seth Entwisle; Ted Laney; and others.

17 Babes In The Woods Friday, 10-10:45am

[Same as October 4]

18 For Adults Only Fall Hiking Foray Saturday, 8am-4pm

Enjoy the fall colors with Volunteer Naturalist Doug Gilliam at Henning Conservation Area. Meet at the nature center and then carpool. Pack a sack lunch and drink. Wear sturdy, comfortable hiking shoes. Hike is approximately four miles. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

Fall Color Hike Saturday, 10am-Noon

[Same as October 5]

S Is For Show Me A Missouri Alphabet

Saturday, 10-11am or 1-2pm

Meet author Judy Young and artist Ross B. Young as they take you on an adventure through Missouri with their book, *S is for Show Me, A Missouri Alphabet*. Learn about the creative processes involved in writing a book and see original artwork as Ross discusses the illustration process. Autographed copies of the book will be available for purchase following the program. Ages 7-adult. Registration required.

Meet The Author And Artist Saturday, 11am-1pm

Stop by anytime to meet author Judy Young and artist Ross B. Young. Autographed copies of *S is for Show Me, A Missouri Alphabet* will be available for purchase.

23 Halloween Happening Super Hero Style

Thursday, 6:30-9:30pm

Some of your favorite Super Heroes make a surprise visit to the nature center and come to the rescue in this action-packed Halloween-style hike. Expect a few surprises, learn a conservation fact or two, and laugh out loud as these unlikely characters save the day. Guided hikes will be led on a first-come, first-served basis with the last hike leaving at 9pm. Other activities will take place in the building. It's sure to be *insightful*, not *frightful*. All ages.

24 Halloween Happening Super Hero Style

Friday, 6:30-9:30pm

[Same as October 23]

25 Fall Color Hike Saturday, 10am-Noon

[Same as October 5]

Digital Photography 101 Saturday, 1-3pm

Thinking about buying a digital camera or already have one but find it a little confusing? Join Volunteer Naturalist Bob Ball to learn how to use these versatile cameras that are beginning to rival conventional equipment. Nature photography will be emphasized. Ages 12-adult. Registration required.

26 Hiking Club Sunday, 3-6:30pm

Looking for a nearby hiking trail? Follow Volunteer Naturalist Mike Mihalik along a trail at Fellows Lake. Hike is three miles. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

30 Spiders! Thursday, 6-7pm

Spooked by spiders? Worried about web spinners? Or do you find arachnids amazing? If you answered "yes," then this program is for you. We'll untangle the web of deceit surrounding spiders and take a close look at these beneficial hunters. You can even come face-to-hairy-face with a tarantula. Ages 7-adult. Registration required.

HIKED IT ... LIKED IT!
Enjoy a naturalist-guided hike for families on the first Saturday of each month from 9 to 11am.



Little Acorns . . .

Little Acorns programs are for children 3-6 years and are 45-minutes in length. Please limit **Little Acorns** programs to one per month. Registration begins the first day of the month.

September

Hey! Big Daddy

Hey! Who is hurrying, scurrying, and weaving in and out of the leaf litter? It's Big Daddy Longlegs! Hurry in to find out some amazing facts about these long-legged forest creatures.

Friday, September 12, 1pm

Saturday, September 27, 10am or 1pm

Seeds

Bring your little "sprout" and find out what seeds need to grow, travel, and get planted.

Tuesday, September 9, 10 or 1pm

Saturday, September 13, 11am

Thursday, September 25, 10am or 1pm

Snake Slither

Bring your preschoolers to learn about these fascinating and often misunderstood reptiles.

Thursday, September 18, 10am or 1pm

Friday, September 19, 10am

October

Get A Bat Attitude

Go batty with Volunteer Naturalist Michele Skalicky and learn why humans need bats, why bats need friends, and why bats need friends like you.

Saturday, October 25, 11am or 1pm

Lucky Ladybugs

Ladybugs are lucky because everybody loves them. Join Volunteer Naturalist Nancy Ryan to find out why.

Wednesday, October 1, 2pm

(registration begins September 15)

Wednesday, October 15, 2pm

Not-So-Spooky Spiders

Spiders may look strange or even creepy, but they're definitely not spooky! We'll learn all about the helpful habits of these tiny creatures.

Saturday, October 4, 1pm

Friday, October 31, 10am or 1pm



at Bois D'Arc Conservation Area

Saturday, September 27

8:30am to 4pm

Celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day with your family at Bois D'Arc Conservation Area located west of Willard.

Bring your fishing pole and bait to try your luck at a specially-stocked pond from 8:30 to 10:30am or 1 to 4pm. Participate in outdoor skills such as firearms, caving, archery, fly casting, enjoy a demonstration on working dogs, and much more! Call the Bois D'Arc Conservation Area at 417/742-4361 for directions and information.

Attention, Scout Leaders and Parents: Your scouts can have fun while satisfying certain badge/achievement requirements at the Great Outdoors Day event. Call the nature center to receive a flier.

Hunter Ed Courses at the nature center . . .

Friday, September 19, 6 to 9pm and Saturday, September 20, 8am to 4pm

Friday, October 17, 6 to 9pm and Saturday, October 18, 8am to 4pm

This 10-hour course is required for anyone born after January 1, 1967 who wants to hunt with firearms in Missouri. This course is continued on Saturday from 8am to 4pm (lunch break given—lunch not provided). You must pass a written test to be certified. Ages 11-adult. *Call today to register.*



The Nature Nook Gift Shop

Featured special is the new *Trees of Missouri* publication (softbound). The book retails for \$16.50 but will be 20% off in September and October.



Harbinger Highlights . . .

Defined, harbinger (pronounced här'bĭn-jər) is anything that fore-shadows a future event; omen; sign. Autumn is a magnificent event—a sign of the summer past, the season present, and the forthcoming winter. Lewis and Clark and the aptly named Corps of Discovery wrote of many "curiosities" on their return journey through Missouri in September 1806.

Reflections from Lewis and Clark's journals:

September 11—"One of the hunters killed a deer from his canoe . . . Found pappaws . . ."

September 15—"We have seen about 20 deer . . . An emence Site of pappaws and as the men were gathering them Saw a number of rattle Snakes . . ."

September 18—" . . . Subsisting on poppaws."

September 19—"Saw a green snake . . ."

Predictions from the 2003 MDC Natural Events Calendar:

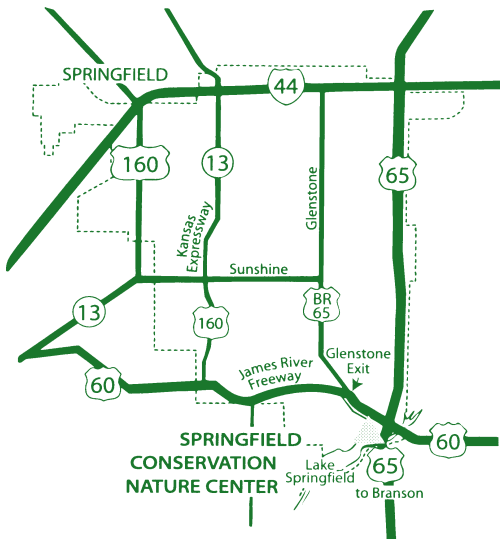
September 12—White-tailed deer breed now through November.

September 25—Fawns have lost their spots.

September 28—Snakes begin winter dormancy.

September 29—Pawpaw fruits ripen.

Check out your calendar and make a note not to miss the magnificent, ever changing, yet consistent autumn.



HOURS—The area is open daily 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. from March 1 to October 31, and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the remainder of the year. The building is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. year 'round. The building and area are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. The area is closed to pets, bicycles, roller blades, hunting, fishing, collecting, and alcoholic beverages. No fees are charged.

STAFF

SPRINGFIELD CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

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Paula Mangan	Maintenance
Eric McMillan	Maintenance
Dave Rutledge	Maintenance
Mike Tillman	Maintenance
Mike Wilson	Maintenance

<<http://www.missouriconservation.com>>

Mark the calendar now and make plans to attend:

Halloween Happening:

Super Hero Style

**Thursday, October 23
Friday, October 24
6:30-9:30pm**



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